

Applic. No.: 10/607,523
Amtd. Dated August 24, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 9, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, and 9-11 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 3 and 6-8 have been previously cancelled.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-2, 4-5, and 9-11 have been rejected as being anticipated by Kawamoto et al. (US 5,511,798) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejection has been noted and claim 1 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in Fig. 3 and the corresponding description in the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a sealing layer disposed between said element and said I/O shield for sealing said I/O shield aperture;
said sealing layer extending to a border of said housing aperture.

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Kawamoto et al. disclose a housing and a removable part of the housing, wherein the removable part of the housing is a wall of that housing. An electrically conductive sealing is located between the housing and the removable part to seal the housing and to form an electrical contact between the edges of the housing and the edges of the removable wall. An element, for example a cable, is directed through the sealing layer that is disposed to seal the housing against electrostatic discharge and electromagnetic influences.

Kawamoto et al. do not disclose an I/O shield that is covering a housing aperture. An I/O shield is provided for connectors or interfaces. A plurality of apertures enables connectors or switches to extend from the inner to the outer side of the housing. The removable wall of the housing disclosed by Kawamoto et al. does not have an aperture, so it is not an I/O shield. These switches and electrical connectors are then usually mounted on an I/O shield or are fixed on it. Kawamoto et al. neither disclose an I/O shield covering a housing aperture nor an element extending through an aperture in that I/O shield. Furthermore, Kawamoto et al. do not disclose a sealing layer that is disposed between the electrical element and the I/O shield and that is additionally extended to a

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border of the housing aperture for sealing both the I/O shield aperture and the housing aperture.

It is the object of the invention of the instant application to provide an improved device for protecting against electrostatic discharge and electromagnetic influences on electronic components.

Clock rates of electronic circuits, for example computers, are increasing and the vulnerability of electronic components or circuits to electrical discharges is also increasing.

Therefore, it has become more and more important to protect these electronic devices against electrostatic discharge and electromagnetic fields. A critical part of a housing is the I/O shield. Kawamoto et al. do not actually protect these electric or electronic devices in a housing with an I/O shield since no I/O shield is provided.

If there were another aperture in a housing according to Kawamoto et al., a person skilled in the art would provide another sealing. There is no hint to use only one sealing for an aperture in an I/O shield and a connection between the I/O shield and the housing. In the arrangement according to Kawamoto et al. only one location is to be sealed.

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The advantage of the invention of the instant application is that one sealing layer, which is formed of electrically conductive material, seals the I/O shield aperture and the aperture in the housing which is covered by the I/O shield. Therefore, the overall transition resistance between the element and the housing is decreased, since the number of connection points where transition resistances appear is decreased. The only remaining transition resistances are between the element and the sealing layer and between the sealing layer and the housing. Prior art arrangements had four connection points in the path from the element to the housing. A low transition resistance is of great importance for a good shielding effect.

Further, Kawamoto et al. do not contain any hint for a person skilled in the art to achieve the object of improved protection against electromagnetic influence or electrostatic discharge in housings with an I/O shied.

Clearly, Kawamoto et al. do not show "a sealing layer disposed between said element and said I/O shield for sealing said I/O shield aperture; said sealing layer extending to a border of said housing aperture," as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

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Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over Kawamoto et al. and since all of the dependent claims are dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-2, 4-5, and 9-11 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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